

Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road
Irmo, South Carolina 29063
Established 1873



Today's Theme:

Peter is often all or nothing—either resisting Jesus or drawing closer to him in earnest. In this scripture, we see a version of Peter who is hungry to learn. His posture is humble and open—he wants to absorb Jesus' teachings like a wet sponge. He asks a question and might expect a straightforward answer: "How many times should I forgive?" Instead, Jesus' math is not predictable—it's infinite. Forgiveness is abundant; grace is not earned. In your own faith, do you find comfort in theological formulas? Do you wish for straightforward answers? Can you let go of black-and-white thinking and instead embrace the infinite colors of grace?

March 17, 2024
5th Sunday in Lent

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Purple is a color of penitence and is used to reflect the preparatory season of Lent.

THE GATHERING AND WITNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MEDITATION

Open Hands written by: Rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org

Teach me about the ways of the wind, about the ways of the world, about the ways of the heart. Teach me about the way two souls can hold each other close. Teach me about forgiveness, about the language of I'm sorry and the softness of sincerity. Teach me about abundance, about seventy-times-seven and all the days of my life. Teach me about joy, about its contagious weaving and its soul-healing. Teach me about mercy, about open hands and deep breaths. Teach me about the dawn of time and the stars in the sky. Teach me what matters most. Teach me what is mine to do. Teach this achingly curious heart until I run out of questions or I run out of days. Teach me some melodious sonnet, and I will have a life well-lived.

*CHIMING OF THE HOUR and WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

I see it! You're in the right place! This is God's house. The door is open to you. Let us worship God.

We are here to learn from the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray:

Holy God, we long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Like Peter, make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 390 *Forgive Our Sins as we Forgive*

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Children ages 3 through 5th grade will be dismissed following the Children's Moment to attend Kid's Worship. Parents may pick up their children downstairs following the conclusion of the service.

A TIME OF PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY 95

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 119:9-16

ANTHEM

O Love

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:15-22

*HYMN 549

Where Charity and Love Prevail

PROCLAMATION:

Wandering Heart Series: *Teach Me*

MEDITATIVE RESPONSE

Love Your Neighbor and Forgive

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

written by: rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

"How many times should I forgive?" "Jesus, where are you going?"

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

"Where does it hurt?" "What do you need?" "How can I help?"

We believe that God is a teacher.

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." "Here I am." "Send me."

We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,
with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 560

Help Us Accept Each Other

*BENEDICTION

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. Amen.

*CHORAL RESPONSE 400 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing(verse 3)*
O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

*WE FOLLOW THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*THE CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*POSTLUDE AND DEPARTING

Indicates that the congregation stands. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue with your participation. **Bold titles indicate congregation participation.*

STEWARDSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Week of March 3, 2024

Unified budget received \$17,068.20

Week of March 10, 2024

Needed each week to fund unified budget \$14,724.81

Unified budget received \$12,195.00

Needed to meet budget year to date (Inclgd. bldg. fund) \$147,248.10

Unified budget received year to date (Inclgd. bldg. fund) \$148,167.85

Attendance	On Line Viewing
Worship 141 Sunday School 64	162

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER:

Brookdale — Mary Skenes

Carroll Campbell Place — Barbara Rolin

Generations of Irmo — Carolyn Brower,
Joyce Cook, Dot Corley

Lowman Home — Gwen Parnell, Anita Weed

Tyborne UCP — Jessica Gore

Special Prayers — Amy Bundrick, Freddie Butler,

Bob Davis, Inez Hyatt, Bob & Mindy Kuenzli,

Lee McMillan, Barbara Pereira, Shannon Robertson,

Bill Rolin, Claudia Smith, Terry Waites

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:

Ushers:	Lead – Ryan Cole Heather Magann Melinda Hydrick Sherri Puette Sandra Sills
Trustee:	Eric Puette
Sound Booth:	Dustin Tanner
Acolyte:	Rachel Rhodes
Nursery:	Millie Fore, Susan Price

Flower Ministry

The flowers which grace the Holy Altar today are given to the Glory of God by Bill's Angels in memory of Angel Sandra Durst.

A Welcome to our Guests!

We are honored that you are worshipping with us. Please complete the "red book" registration to record your presence. Also, please introduce yourself to those around you and visit our Welcome Center. We have a welcome gift for our first-time guests in the welcome center. Please stop by the desk at the close of the worship service. We hope you will return to join us again in Worship!



Lent-Easter Sermon Series: *Wandering Heart*

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.



OASIS

Let's take a road trip to Shealy's Barbecue for our next event! Join us on **Tuesday, March 19th** for a "dutch treat meal" and fellowship. Cost of the meal is \$12.95 + tax with 3% cash discount. Be sure to call the church office to reserve your spot by **Thursday, March 14th** so that we may plan properly. You may choose to meet us there by 11:30 that day or arrive at the church at 10:30 to car pool from the church. Please advise your method of choice when you call to RSVP so that we may know our number of car pool participants. We look forward to our time together!

Youth Tech Support Night

Last year the youth filled the Fellowship Hall and were available to all who needed or wanted help with their devices such as tablets, phones, computers, etc. There have been several requests for us to do this again so we will once again fill the Fellowship Hall **today from 4:00 - 6:00p.m.** to help anyone who would like assistance. We will help with your tablets, iPhone, androids, laptops and more. We also will help anyone sign up for and learn how to navigate social media (Facebook or Instagram) so that everyone can be able to access all the ways our church is reaching out with information. There is no need to sign up, just arrive and we will have youth ready to help.



Epworth First Night Bags

Thank you for all that has been donated so far for this project! There are some things we have enough of and there are a few needs still and if you want to help out whether one item or several is up to you. Drop them off in the church office marked Epworth. Thank you in advance!

Still needed:

- Diapers any size
- Baby wipes
- Pajama sets - girl or boy newborn to 5T
- T-shirts - girl or boy newborn to 5T
- Towel & washcloth sets - children's
- Hair brushes - for child
- Socks - white or tan - newborn to size 7/8

Church Directory!

We are excited to announce that a committee has been formed to work on a new church directory for our Salem family! The directory will be available online to all church members as well as members will have an opportunity to request a copy to keep on hand at home. **An information sheet with additional details will be forthcoming**, but for now our critical task involves soliciting your help with signing up to have your picture made. We will have someone on site to capture pictures of your family (*no formal settings or pictures to buy*) on the following dates: **March 17, March 24, March 27 and March 31**. Please make plans to take advantage of one of these dates to have your picture made. A sign-up sheet of 5-minute interval time slots is in the Welcome Center! Please be sure to sign up for your spot as soon as possible. Feel free to call the church office for additional questions.

Prayer and Self-Denial

The United Women in Faith will be holding a day of Prayer and Self-Denial on **March 23rd at 10am** in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a brief program and light refreshments. Please park on the cemetery side as there will be a car show out front. Faith Circle will also be putting together overnight bags for Epworth Children's Home after the program, anyone is invited to assist.

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet **Monday, March 25 at 11:30 at Carolina Wings in Ballentine.**

Maundy Thursday Service

There will be a Maundy Thursday Communion service at **6:30pm on Thursday, March 28.** We hope to see you there.

Easter Sunday

We will hold two worship service opportunities on Easter this year. In addition to our **regular worship service at 10:30am**, Reverend Childress will lead a **sunrise service at the Church on the Lake site (Woodmen of the World) at 7:00am.** Additionally, the children will be flowering the cross during the Worship Service hour that day. If you have any flower donations to contribute to this event, please feel free to bring them. *Families are encouraged to take their family photos at the cross after our 10:30 worship hour.*

Memorials

In Loving Memory of Sandra Durst

Building fund - Rod & Lois Sheldon

In Loving Memory of Virginia Priester

Building fund - David & Martina Thomas

In Loving Memory of Mark Alexander Smith

Building fund - Phillip & Millie Fore

Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

Poetry Prayers Written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed/ A Sanctified Art LLC/ sanctifiedart.org

We will be reading and discussing the poetry along with creating art of our own from the heart. Poetry often takes us deeper into relationship with God in a way that we did not expect. The freedom and love expressed in beauty even in lamenting is part of what we receive when we contemplate all that God is and does. Asking questions, listening, and understanding that God responds in so many ways is just part of what we will be doing as we gather in community to grow deeper in faith.

The class will take place at 6:00 PM on Thursday nights for 10 weeks. Beginning on **Thursday, April 4, 2024.** In the Friendship Class next to the nursery.

Please contact Heather Magann at 843-446-7280 or hmagann@gmail.com with any questions or if you would like to participate.

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Sunday, March 17

9:30 A.M. Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Morning Worship
4:00 P.M. Kid's Quest
4:00 P.M. Tech Support

Tuesday, March 19

9:30 A.M. Precept Bible Study
11:30 A.M. OASIS @ Shealy's BBQ
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Wednesday, March 20

7:00 A.M. AA Meeting
7:00 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday, March 21

7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Saturday, March 23

10:00 A.M. Prayer and Self-Denial
10:00 A.M. Car & Bike Show
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Sunday, March 24

9:30 A.M. Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Morning Worship
11:30 A.M. Egg Hunt & Lunch
4:00 P.M. Kid's Quest
5:30 P.M. Youth Group

Follow us on Instagram ([saleumcofirmo](https://www.instagram.com/saleumcofirmo)) weekly for Pastor Jeff's *Wednesday in the Word*. It's a great midweek encouragement to get you through the rest of your week until we meet again on Sunday.

Sharing God's Love

Current Pantry Needs: Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Coffee, Spaghetti Noodles, Elbow Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Pasta Dinners, Rice Dinners, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, Canned Meats, Chili, Corn, Diced Tomatoes, Crackers (Ritz or Saltines), Snacks, Juice, Canned or Powdered Milk.

Household Items: New Underwear and Socks for Adults & Kids, Queen and King Sheets Bed Linens and Comforters, Blankets - All Sizes, Hand Towels, Bath Towels, Wash Cloths, Pots, Pans, Plates, Glasses, Cookware, Bakeware, Kitchen Linens, Small Appliances.

We are collecting Easter Baskets and Fillers now thru March. Bibles and Children's Books would be especially appreciated!

Drop-off containers are located in each Sunday School Room, Church Office and in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall entrance.

189 items were delivered to Sharing God's Love on March 4th.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
1321 Salem Church Road, Irmo, SC 29063
CCLI #1562077



Website: salemumcsc.com
E-mail: smethodist@aol.com



Phone 803-781-1626

*In case of an emergency,
call 864-985-2456 or 803-422-9400*

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Jeff Childress — Pastor

William Byrd — Pianist

P. J. Garrett — Director of Children’s Ministries

Sarah E. High — Director of Music Ministries

Angie Lain — Director of Accounting

Miriam Y. Lovett — Organist

Jim Magann — Coordinator of Children/Youth
and Missions Ministries

Tina Overton — Director of Creative Ministries

Dustin Tanner — Coordinator of A/V Tech and Communications

Marie Wicker — Administrative Coordinator

E-Giving

Please prayerfully consider giving to Salem United Methodist Church through our e-Giving program. Scan the QR code below to be taken to Salem’s donation page to present your offering.



You can also visit the link:

<https://giving.ncsservices.org/App/Giving/ncs-2365>